

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) A method for determining ~~an~~ the end point of cooking of grains which ~~comprise~~ comprises the steps of:

providing the device of claim 3;

placing sample grains between ~~two~~ the pair of plates, applying a predetermined load of weight on said loading means so as to apply said predetermined load of weight to said pair of plates for a predetermined period of time causing said grains to spread in between said pair of plates, determining '~~spread area~~' the spread area of said grains and measuring it at regular time intervals, and determining the time at which a sudden increase or attainment of a constant value in the spread area is observed, ~~being an indication of~~ to indicate the cooking time of said grains.

2. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said grains ~~are grain~~ is cooked pulses or rice.

3. (Currently Amended) A device for determining ~~the~~ an end point of cooking of grains which ~~comprise~~ comprises the following components: a ram or a plunger mounted on a housing and adapted to move linearly in said housing, ~~a~~ a lever comprising first and second ends, the first end being connected ~~at one end~~ to said ram and mounted on said housing, the second ~~other~~ end of said lever being free, ~~and carrying~~ a loading means for receiving a predetermined load of weights disposed at said second end, a platform at ~~the~~ a foot of said housing on which a pair of plates are disposable placed, a sample of grains ~~whose end~~

~~point of cooking is to be determined~~ being disposable ~~placed in~~ between said plates, whereby, said components being arranged such that addition of a predetermined load of weights on the loading means for receiving a predetermined load weights ~~depressing~~ depresses said lever downwardly causing it to push said ram downwards against said pair of plates, and thereby presses ~~pressing~~ the sample of grains contained therebetween, causing it to spread, so that ~~the~~ 'spread area' of said grain an area to which the grains spread can be determined and measured at a regular time interval, the time at which a sudden increase or attainment of a constant value in the ~~spread~~ area of spread is observed[,] being an indication of ~~the~~ a cooking time of said grains ~~grain~~.

4. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 3 wherein said lever is mounted on said housing through a fulcrum.

5. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 4 wherein said lever is mounted on said housing through a spring means to restore the ram to its original position after the application of force on the sample grains.

6. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 4 wherein said device is mounted on a base.

7. (New) A kit comprising (a) the device as claimed in claim 3, and (b) means for receiving a projected image of the area of spread that facilitates measurement of the spread area at a regular time interval.

8. (New) The kit as claimed in claim 7, wherein the means is a graph sheet.
9. (New) The kit as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a projector for projecting an image of the spread area onto the means for receiving the projected image.
10. (New) The kit as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a projector for projecting an image of the spread area onto the means for receiving the projected image.
11. (New) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the device consists of the components.